Issue) has not been permitted in the VIII Issues & as, unlike the VI and VII Issue (which were restricted to individual investors), the new series is open for institutional investors also.

Proposal to encourage NRI investment

2057. SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRI problems were discussed between the Minister of Finance and Minister of Industry in recent Seminar/Conference; and

(b) if so, whether certain attractive proposals were envisaged to induce more NRIs to invest in production oriented programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Government receives various proposals for attracting NRI investments from different organisations. The existing rules and regulations are kept under constant review and suitable changes are made wherever considered necessary.

Issue of import licences for importing gold

2058. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government issue import licences to the jewellers for importing gold;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down therefor; and

(c) whether any importer/exporter can apply under this scheme and if so, what are the broad outlines of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSHI): (a) to (c). Import of Gold is allowed for export production only. The details are given in Chapter—XIX and XXI Part—B o fthe Import and Export Policy, 1988—91 (Vol. I) and the corresponding chapters of the Hand Book of Procedures, 1988—91. Copies of these books are available in Parliament Library.

Spy network in the country

2059. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of organised spy network which have been busted or detected by Government since 1980;

(b) what is the total number of persons arrested in each of these rackets;

(c) whether prosecutions have been launched or other action have been taken in each of these cases;

(d) what steps are being taken to prevent such spy networks from operating in the country; and

(e) whether Government have been able to identify the countries which are involved in these spy networks against our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to available information, 691 organised spy network were detected since 1980.

(b) 970.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Constant vigilance is being maintained by concerned agencies to unearth, detect and neutralise any attempt at espionage by any individual or organisation.

It is not in public interest to divluge further details.

Denial of foreign exchange under E.T.S. to delegates who attended XIII World Festival of youth and students in DPR Korea

2060. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Delegation attended the XIII World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang in D.P.R. Korea;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of delegates were denied Foreign Exchange which they were entitled under the 'Foreign Travel Scheme' (FTS);

(c) whether Government are aware that this caused great inconvenience to the delegates at Pyongyang; and

(d) if so, what were the reasons for denial of FTS to the delegates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Government of India had permitted 352 delegates from India to participate in the XIII World Festival of Youth and Students held in Pyongyang in DPR Korea during 1st to 8th July, 1989 and had released foreign exchange worth US $ 72,300 for this purpose.

(b) No specific instance has been brought to the notice of the Government where the delegates were denied FTS facility.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Criteria of income tax assessment of an assessee

2061. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tax assessment on the income of an assesee is made generally on the submission of voluntary returns; and

(b) if so, in how many cases the voluntary returns have been subjected to scrutiny in case of the assessees whose income were shown to be above Rupees 5 lakhs during the last financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) From the financial year 1988-89, the summary assessment scheme (which was previously limited to cases with returned income upto Rs. 2 lakhs) was extended to all income groups irrespective of the quantum of the returned income. However, keping in view the available manpower resources, a small percentage of the cases in every income group is selected for making assessments after due scrutiny and investigation.

(b) During the financial year 1988-89, assessments were made after scrutiny in 14,475 cases where returns declaring income of Rupee 5 lakhs and above had been furnished by taxpayers.

Medical reimbursement benefit to employees of nationalised banks

2062. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of State Bank of India are enitled to full medical reimbursement;

(b) if so, whether the Officers of other nationalised banks are also entitled to the same benefits; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Even before the 14 major banks were nationalised in 1969, State Bank of India has been fully reimbursing to its officers the medical expenses incurred by them on their own treatment. The